



LOUISIANA SENATE

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**SEN. MORRISH SETS SPECIAL HEARING TO EXAMINE IMPACT OF
CHANGES IN NATIONAL FLOOD INSURANCE PROGRAM**

SENATE AND HOUSE INSURANCE COMMITTEES TO MEET OCTOBER 23RD

At the request of District 25 State Senator Dan “Blade” Morrish (R-Jennings), the Senate and House Insurance Committees will hold a special joint hearing in Baton Rouge to discuss the changes in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) and the impact those changes will have on Louisianans.

**JOINT SENATE AND HOUSE INSURANCE COMMITTEE MEETING
*NATIONAL FLOOD INSURANCE PROGRAM HEARING***

Wednesday, October 23rd
9:30 a.m.

House Committee Room 5
Louisiana State Capitol

Donald Cravins, Chief of Staff for Senator Mary Landrieu, representing the Louisiana Congressional delegation and Michael Hecht representing Greater New Orleans, Inc. will be in attendance. Additionally, Louisiana Insurance Commissioner Jim Donelon, 20 coastal Parish Presidents, representatives from FEMA, NFIP, Louisiana Realtors and Louisiana Bankers, and Louisiana insurance agents have been invited to attend.

“This hearing is an opportunity for the public and the legislature to get an update on what is happening with federal flood insurance in our nation’s capitol,” said Sen. Morrish, Chairman of the Senate Committee on Insurance. “While this is technically a federal issue and we recognize the congressional delegation for working together in a non-partisan way to find a solution, it is our responsibility as a committee and a legislature to identify and bring to light the problems these changes will cause for our residents.”

NFIP provides flood insurance coverage for roughly 500,000 Louisiana homes and businesses. Since the Federal program began in 1968, Louisiana has collected about \$16 billion in flood loss payments, more than any other state, largely due to Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

Many changes are on the horizon for NFIP. In an effort to make the reduce debt and strengthen the program, Congress has approved plans to eliminate the federal subsidies that make the federal program

affordable, raise premiums to market rates over time and remove the grandfather provision that shielded property owners from rate spikes if they built to proper specifications and were later reclassified because of new FEMA flood maps.

With these changes, families and property owners could see rate increases of up to 4,000 percent and it is estimated that about 18,000 Louisiana policies will see immediate an immediate impact.

Measures in Congress to delay the insurance rate increases for a year are under consideration, but are on hold with the government shutdown. The entire Louisiana Congressional delegation and Parish Presidents from south Louisiana have been vigorously working to get the rate hikes delayed while local residents have staged rallies to draw attention to the impact of the increases on their lives and livelihoods. Sen. Morrish says that now is the time for the issue to be discussed in the state legislature.

“With so many changes and rate increases impacting not only our coastal residents, but our entire state, and with no definite fix at this time in DC, it is time that we discuss what can be done on a state and local level. What can we do to reduce the risk and reduce the premium costs and reduce the burden on Louisiana residents? Those are the questions that we need to address,” said Sen. Morrish.

All impacted residents and other interested stakeholders are strongly encouraged to attend and voice their concerns.

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